

## THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Wednesday, May 5, 1915.

It is growing more and more evident that the Illinois legislature considered its work done when it got through with its organization fight.

Yes, the republicans are getting together. The affair down at Syracuse is a fair sample of their little round-ups.

Now that the mechanical gift starter for machinery has been perfected it is time for the inventors to turn their attention to perfecting a device which will operate on the human mechanism.

The fate of an official of Hospital, Ill., who met death the other night while turning on the light serves as a reminder that the rate of mortality among Rock Island city officials from this cause never has been excessive.

It requires a peculiar gift of nerve for an institution that fought and is still opposing the city's expansion and development to boast of its "progressive and constructive" policies. The people are not deceived by such hypocrisy.

A couple of Chicago pastors, worn out with the grind of nerve racking duties imposed upon them, have retired and are to remove to Canada. It has not been so long since this line of retreat was monopolized by those engaged in other occupations.

It is not uncommon for newspapers which are not members of the Associated Press to denigrate the service of this greatest of newspapering agencies. There is yet to be found, however, any instance in which one of such newspapers has failed to avail itself of the first opportunity to join the A. P.—provided it was in position to pay the price.

With its team bumped five times straight on the road and home for an opening in the midst of a spell of bad weather Moline is getting a little real baseball experience. But cheer up. This is the kind of baptism which all must submit to and it only makes the national game all the more appreciated when the inevitable turn for the better does come.

Notice has been given that the prize cattle quarantined near Chicago since the dairy show last winter on account of the hoof and mouth disease are to be returned this week to the owners. It is probable that the latter, when they have paid their bills for six months' quarantine and treatment, will do a good deal of thinking before they again offer their herds for exhibition purposes.

The manner in which the German people are cooperating to carry their country successfully through the war crisis is illustrated by the effort being made by a manufacturer of toilet preparations to have patrons return empty tubes, such as those containing tooth paste, in order to conserve the nation's supply of tin. Obviously, a country whose people look after small things in this manner will be a hard one to conquer by the methods now being practiced in this war.

It is a trifle far fetched for President Lincoln of the Pullman company to claim that the public stands in the way of reform in the tipping evil. If the company had not encouraged the system as it now stands it is hardly to be supposed that porters would be drawing half pay or less on the assumption that they would collect the balance from the public. Neither will anyone take any stock in claims that the company cannot bring about reform if it really wants to.

There is some talk of a new agitation for good roads in Rock Island county. The question is bound to come up so soon as the road problem is a pressing one, but Rock Island's influence toward betterment will hardly count for much till after it has mended its approaches on Ninth and Twelfth streets as provided for in the Sears annexation ordinance. Until this is done about all this city can do for the cause is to urge the rest of the county to "get on." After it is done we can say "Come on."

## GOOD ROADS AND SANITATION.

The Joliet News declares that good roads prevent disease and says that new persons, on first thought would see any possible connection between good roads and good health. Yet the state board of health of Kansas says that good roads can and will prevent,

disease. Now? By the removal of weeds and trash. Weeds and trash prevent the prompt evaporation of moisture and promote retention of ground water. This makes ideal breeding spots for mosquitoes, flies and other insects, which are known as disease carriers, not to mention chinch bugs, hoppers and other insects which are crop destroyers. Furthermore, an underground web of water invites the growing of garbage and manure by offering concealment, of which fact careless and thoughtless people are prone to take advantage, thus increasing the facility of insect breeding and providing these insect carriers with proper material for disease transmission.

Good roads also prevent disease by providing good drainage. Many farms have no means of drainage except by ditches along roadways. Open ditches, clear of brush and debris, with hard-surfaced and proper fall, afford these farms the opportunity of ridding themselves of many a stagnant pool.

The removal of weeds, proper road grading, surface hardening and cilling, insure prompt drainage of all pool, ditch and surface water, removing the possibility of insect breeders, for some insects multiply without moisture. Road ditches in itself is destructive of insect larvae, especially mosquitoes—a well known fact. Dry roads offer pedestrians, and notably children who are compelled to walk to and from school, dry shoes and feet. While colds are due to specific germs, yet it is a well known fact that cold, wet feet and chilled limbs lower the resistance of individuals and make them more favorable subjects for infections of the respiratory passages, including pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Good roads prevent disease by setting an example to adjoining farm premises. Good roads promote travel and set an example to the farmer whose premises are bordered by them. The comparison of a well-graded, clean highway with an unkempt and treacherous road is sufficient to stimulate every hard owner to a clean-up. Fride compels him to offer to passers-by a neat-appearing and attractive house and barnyard. Results are only too obvious. Good roads are active disease prevention agencies, aside from their financial and commercial value.

## MOVE ON.

It is understood that one of the first acts of the new administration in furtherance of its policy to give Rock Island a cleaning will be to order an exodus of a flood of undesirable who have been coming to the city for some time. These include many money artists, tin horn gamblers, confidence men, pickpockets, and even the lower unrespectable degraded element. Many of these disreputable have come to town since the city election and their presence is an insult to the incoming administration.

It is this class of "drop-ins" which creates most of the mischief and breeds most of the crime prevailing in the population centers. They bode no good, are here for no good, and the quicker they are given the word to move on the better it will be for Rock Island.

## PREVENTION OF TYPHUS FEVER.

Among the brightest pages of history of American medicine are those recording the work of American scientists on the part played by insects in the transmission of disease. The foundation of the later work on the transmission of disease was laid by Theobald Smith in his work on the transmission of Texas fever of cattle by the tick. That pioneer work opened up and laid the foundation for practically all the subsequent work by others, both in the United States and abroad. In this important branch of medical science. Since then other insect-borne diseases have been added to the list by American scientists—yellow fever through the work of Reid, Carroll, Laxar and Agramonte; Rocky Mountain spotted fever by Ricketts, King and McClintock; typhus by Anderson and Goldberger, Ricketts and Wilder; plague by McCoy and anthrax by Mittelman. By applying the principles determined from a consideration of the work of these investigators to the control of different diseases, many of them have been brought under control or have been practically eradicated from this country. By the application of measures based on the part played by the tick in the transmission of Texas fever of cattle the area of infection has been greatly reduced and each year sees it still further limited. Since the brilliant campaign of the public health service, under the leadership of white, in New Orleans in 1905 the south has lost its terror of a yellow fever epidemic. Outbreaks of bubonic plague are quickly brought under control by giving attention to the part of the rodent and the flea.

The most recent work of American investigators on insect transmission of disease, that of the conveyance of typhus fever by the louse, promises to have a vital part in the control of typhus in Serbia and eastern Europe.

The inability of the louse to transport itself, except for very short distances, explains the many times observed fact of the short striking distance of typhus and that it is those who come into most intimate contact with the sick who are most apt to be attacked. As the Journal of the American Medical Association points out, now that the cause and the method of transmission are known, the disease should speedily lose its terrors in civilized communities.

## Explanation.

"How could such silent people ever do their courting?" "Well, she has such a speaking countenance." "But what about him?" "Oh, his money talks."—Baltimore American.

HEALTH TALKS  
William Brady, M.D.  
How Tuberculosis is Contracted

Not by living in the same neighborhood, nor by working in the same office, nor by being a descendant of the family in which tuberculosis exists or has existed. That is the consensus of authorities today.

More or less intimate and prolonged contact with the disease appears to be the only essential requirement for infection with tuberculosis—such as the contact of young children with one another at play and at school; the contact of young lovers, the talented kiss, the contact of husband and wife, or parent and child, or room-mates, or chums.

A cleanly, intelligent, conscientious consumptive who is able to help himself or herself is certainly not a menace to anybody's health. If direct transference of infected saliva, or spray from mouth or nose, or saliva-contaminated articles or articles is avoided, then the disease cannot be spread.

An individual with tuberculosis is morally, if not legally, bound to expectorate only in a receptacle designed for that purpose and to burn or disinfect the sputum at least once a day. Any person with any knowledge or sense of courtesy will hold the hand or handkerchief over the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Any one who fails to do so should be punished even more severely than the person who expectorates in a public place, for spray infection, by means of invisible droplets of moisture given off in sneezing and coughing, and carrying, perhaps, virulent germs suspended in the droplets, is believed to be the most frequent means of infection by tuberculosis, pneumonia, influenza (so-called grippe), bronchitis,

and, most important of all, the common "cold."

Experts in tuberculosis of the lungs teach that childhood is the time of infection—which smolders in glands until late in life; youth is the time of super-infection, or the lighting up of the smoldering spark.

Much market milk is found to come from tubercular herds, and young children often have scrofula (tubercular lymph glands in the neck), the bovine tubercle bacillus being the type of germ present in many of these cases. Tuberculin tested, pasteurized or, best of all, certified milk will insure against this mode of infection.

Of course the hereditary theory is no longer retained. What has passed for inherited consumption has been nothing more nor less than the result of intimate contact in the family or household life.

Thus we have the problem narrowed down to definite principles: Tuberculosis (consumption) is conveyed through uncleanness, carelessness, ignorance, viciousness and persistence in all of these sins. Poverty fosters such sins, and of course the whole community, and not the unfortunate victim, is accountable for poverty in every instance.

Questions and Answers.  
Dietary for Victim of Uric Acid Detention: Please suggest a dietary for one suffering with uric acid.

Reply.  
Yes, if you will first explain how you developed the detention.

Toying With a Torpid Liver: Would a massage roller benefit a torpid liver?

Reply.  
Not much in this life.

## COMMITTEE REPORT HOLDS ZONE FARES THE INEVITABLE SEQUEL TO THE JITNEY BUS

The jitney from the community standpoint; its origin and reason for being; how it operates; present effect; probable future; and a complete survey of the community's interest in this new transportation scheme, is covered by an exhaustive report of a special transportation committee which has just been approved by the board of directors of the Oakland, Cal., Chamber of Commerce and Commercial club consolidated. This committee, of which Stephen E. Kieffer, consulting engineer, is chairman, and of which the other members are J. H. L'Honnendies, landscape engineer, and M. H. Sherwood, manager of the Sunset Lumber company, made inquiries and an investigation throughout all the principal cities in the United States. The report is based upon that investigation.

The investigation was undertaken because it was believed that the dominant party at interest in any change of transportation units is the community, and that is covered by the opening paragraphs in which the committee says: "In all of the controversies and hearings over the jitney bus problem thus far, in the press and before legislative bodies, the positions taken and the views expressed have very naturally been those of the interested parties from their immediate viewpoint—on the part of the street railways to protect their income and investment; on the part of the jitney owners to establish a business; and on the part of the traveling public to consult only its own temporary fancy, prejudices or convenience."

In another paragraph the committee asks: "Have we now reached the point where the electric trolley car is to be rendered obsolete and be superseded by the independently owned and operated small transportation unit traveling on 'rubber and air' and propelled by its own power plant? Is this a scientific advance in urban transportation, and an economic necessity demanded by the people? Will it result in still further increasing traffic range and the economic residence limit from the business centers, or if not extending these limits, will it add to the speed, comfort or safety of the service which the present limits?"

The committee calls attention to the fact that, in looking over the history of horse car giving way to the cable car, and the cable car (except under very special conditions) to the electric trolley car. There was an economic justification for each change which made it necessary and unavoidable. The wiping out of investments in the horse car, cable car, and earlier electric car lines and equipment, and replacement with the efficient and expensive modern equipment had its justification in the accompanying social, physical and financial development and improvement of the people and communities affected. It was reflected in an increase in property values which greatly overshadowed the immediate investment in the transportation system destroyed.

Will the jitney do this? It is quite conclusive that if the motor bus comes to stay, it will not be in the shape of the present jitney, and if the motor bus is to be the transportation unit of the future it will supersede the electric car because it is economically right, and in doing so it would justify the replacement of the present investments by enhancing the property values of the community.

This is the keynote from the standpoint of the report. Will the jitney relieve congestion in apartment or tenement sections in the way that every city in America is striving to solve that problem, or will it only aggravate and increase the present difficulties? If

it does not help what will become of the values beyond the two and a half mile limit which the committee finds to be the ultimate range of service of the jitneys? If the jitney weakens the present transportation system, is covered by the support for unprofitable lines serving the outlying districts from the section where traffic is densest, what does it mean to the property owner and the home owner in the suburbs of Oakland, and the American city? The committee believes that the jitney bus in a large measure is due to poor business, hard times, and the impossibility of men obtaining work of any kind. "Many of these men already owned small autos, or had saved enough money to buy an automobile, and in this way they went into the jitney bus business. For the present they are doing something for themselves and their families, their time is occupied and the nickels they take in enable them to eat at the expense of their automobiles. In other words, the jitney driver is living upon his capital, or the capital of some one else, because the income is not sufficient to provide for his living and the necessary operating expenses, plus fixed charges and depreciation."

## The Cost of Operation.

Extended investigations of the committee showed them that the average jitney travels 137 miles per day with a car mile income of 5 to 10 cents. Considering depreciation and cost of operation and allowing \$3 to the driver, it was found that even the smallest jitney could not run for less than 7 cents per mile. This emphasizes the fact that most drivers are living at the expense of their autos and on their capital rather than on their income.

## Effect Upon Securities.

Investigation of certain standard traction bonds in California with a par value of \$107,422,000 showed a shrinkage from December, 1914, to March, 1915, of \$5,587,000 or about 5 to 6 per cent.

The ultimate effect of this is appreciated by anyone who considers that over \$60,000,000 worth of California electric railway bonds are held by savings banks and local investors in California, or in other words, by home people. \$430,767,505 in outstanding stocks and bonds was the total for 30 street railroads on June 30, 1913.

## Effect Upon the State and Municipalities.

The state receives 5 to 6 per cent of the gross income of street railways, and the total tax paid on gross income amounts to about 12 per cent. This means a total loss to the public on principal lines of the state \$300,000 per annum, aside from the other form of taxation placed by the public upon street railways in the building and maintenance of that portion of the street occupied by the roadbed.

## Effect Upon Streets.

It was found that in London where the motor bus has attained its greatest prominence, the fact was brought out in a hearing before parliament that, whereas the cost of maintaining a certain road surface prior to the advent of the motor bus was \$453 per square yard, it was increased to \$1,403 per square yard of bus traffic, or slightly over 100 per cent. In this case it was the public—or in other words, the Middlesex county council—appearing in its own behalf to demand relief from a new burden of taxes imposed by the bus traffic.

## Congestion in Streets.

During the rush hour from 5 to 6 p. m. the average number of passengers transported in the 5-cent limit from the business center of Oakland (a length of three blocks on Broadway)

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

## CHORDS AND DISCORDS

THE Austrians appear to have taken seriously the announcement last winter of Lord Kitchener that the war was to begin early in May.

COFFEE vs. Coffee is the title of a Tennessee divorce action. He says her charges are groundless.

ARGUS headline: "Obregon Cut Off His Base in Vera Cruz." Was it third or first?

FRANK Harris, a Chicago lecturer, called President Wilson a falsifier. The fellow got all he was looking for—publicity. You may recall what Harris said to a group of newspaper reporters. "Boys, if you can't write a good word for my show," the circus man said, "mention my name, anyway." That's about Harris' measure in this instance.

## THE RED-HEADED GIRL OF CONNEMARA.

Let others drink, in foaming glasses, To English maids and Scottish lassies; Or toast the midnight fire with flashes From 'neath long silken southern tresses—

Which fire the heart but to consume it, And light up life but to entomb it— I drink to Maura Gillavara.

The red-haired girl of Connemara.

Where is he that can behold her, Red locks sweep her classic shoulder—

Like sacrificial flame, earth spurning, Upon Love's altar grandly burning— Her red cheek o'er white neck glowing,

That red rose o'er the white rose blowing— That will not drink to Gillavara, The red-haired girl of Connemara?

Love guards those pearly gates of blisses, Where blush the wine-red clustered kisses;

Her eyes of liquid amber woo you, Unto her feet and there subdue you; Heaven hath so clothed her in honor, That Rudeness dare not look upon her—

Such is Maura Gillavara, The red-haired girl of Connemara.

For this—for I can only bring her The homage of a rustic singer, Whose theme is all his number's sweetness—

The sunbeam's flash, the sunbeam's gleam— I turn, like some adoring Bonnacht, Unto the grand old hills of Connemara, And drink to Maura Gillavara.

The red-haired girl of Connemara. MICHAEL SCANLAN.

COLD storage religion will never save America, says Raymond Robins. In other words, he recommends more heat. But that's what we're all trying to avoid.

THE moving picture concession will likely produce the next scrap staged at Syracuse.

IT is suspected that those party leaders who are trying to get Billy Sunday to aspire to public office have covetous eyes focused on his bank roll. But surely the cry of tainted money could not be justly raised against any man the good brother might be disposed to tilt into the center of the ring.

Excitement in Whiteside, (Morrison, Ill., Sentinel.) Friday, John Getty's team ran away, smashing things up quite a bit. The oldest son, William, and his sister, Marybelle, and her friend, Mary Aunna, had been out gathering eggs as Mr. Getty is sick, and just as they got in Coleta, at the four corners, a bolt dropped, letting some of the harness down and breaking the tongue, scaring the team which began running and ran about eighty rods turning into their home, the wagon turning over onto the gate post, the team running into the barn yard gate and one horse getting down. The girls were told to jump, which they did, hurting them quite badly. The boy hung onto the team until getting thrown out, escaping without a scratch. The eggs were broken and thrown in all direction, they having nearly 200 dozen in the wagon.

AMONG prizes offered for the Three-Eye league team in Moline is a baby basket to the first player who becomes a father during the season. You may or you may not be able to wheedle a wheeze out of this.

JOHN Bunney left an \$8,000 estate. And the movie fans thought he must have been worth at least a couple of millions. Filmed again.

THE bride who left her husband because he would not kiss her probably was overly fond of onions.

Cinching the Cinchure. (Ohio State Journal.)

No matter whether skirts are about as big, all told, as a minute, or 12 yards around from given point to given point, the corset manufacturers always say that they're the very kind that require a new style corset to give that grace and poise of carriage so greatly to be desired.

IT is reported the Chicago jurist who said that fathers instead of their sons should be spanked has not a boy of his own.

THEY are having a tough time of it keeping up a warm reception to California visitors. At Los Angeles ice is forming.

JOHN Pepper has been appointed night marshal at Aledo. He ought to make it warm for transgressors.

M. C.

## The Daily Story

Out to Repel a Night Attack—By Oscar Cox.

In the early part of the German invasion of Belgium, when the French were gathering near the border, there was one fortification on the line of French defenses somewhat separated from the rest. The colonel commanding, expecting an attack at any moment, arranged for the discharge of every gun on the outer parapet at once by means of electricity. The electric key was set up in the quarters of Major Molynoux, who was entrusted with its guardianship, that the guns might be fired at the approach of the enemy and might not be fired prematurely.

The commandant, Colonel Du Plessis, was a nervous little man whose principal military maxim was getting ahead of the enemy. He was sufficiently educated as a soldier to know that a favorite hour for surprise in war is 2 o'clock in the morning, when the party to be attacked is wrapped in slumber. Anticipating that the works entrusted to his care might be stormed at that hour, he had arranged a method by which such a terrific onslaught of shot and shell should be poured upon an attacking force as to cause it to recoil, thereby giving time for the gathering of its defenders, who would be roused by the simultaneous firing of so many guns.

Legs had been captured by the Germans and they were sweeping through Belgium. Colonel Du Plessis was very nervous. He had his pickets out some distance from the fort, but an enemy stealthily advancing may seize a picket before he can give an alarm, and the colonel was relying principally on his firing device.

One night the colonel turned in so apprehensive of attack that he did not get to sleep till after midnight. Just before dawn he was awakened by a din that could have been caused only by the firing of many cannon. Starting up he hurried on his outer clothing, and bucking on his sword ran out on to the open space behind the guns, ready to command in the defense. He was met by hundreds of his men, some of whom were taking position at the pieces, some were hurrying for ammunition, while others were forming in line behind the works.

The breeches of the outer tier of guns that had been fired were opened and shells put in some, solid shot in others. As to the inner guns, they were already loaded. In a few minutes the activity ceased, and all stood ready for the coming fray. The colonel, surrounded by his staff, stood on one of the parapets, peering down into the darkness, endeavoring to catch sight of the enemy.

The strain on the men waiting for an attack is hard to bear. Once in the fray action takes the place of suspense, and the latent bulldog in a

man's nature enables him not only to bear up, but often perform deeds that are accounted heroic by others. In the present case this strain was prolonged. Ample time elapsed for the garrison to take position, reload the empty pieces and collect ammunition where it was needed. And yet no enemy appeared.

"Captain Le Ferre," said the colonel, "go down there and see what trickery the enemy are up to or whether they have been so discouraged at the reception they have received that they have withdrawn."

The captain saluted, jumped down from the parapet and disappeared in the darkness. The minutes, which seemed hours to the colonel, ticked slowly by, yet there was no sound from beyond the works. Too impatient to stand still, he walked back and forth within a dozen paces, stopping often to listen and expecting every minute to be greeted by a shower of missiles. "Lieutenant Morant," he said presently, "go after Captain Le Ferre and see what has become of him. He may have been taken in by a lurking enemy."

Down dropped Lieutenant Morant, and he, too, disappeared in the darkness.

He had scarcely gone when Captain Le Ferre returned out of breath and reported that he had sent a skirmish line out some distance and had not heard a shot. It was not possible that an enemy could be near the fort.

A suspicion that there had been some mistake about the firing of the guns entered the colonel's brain.

"How far has the skirmish line advanced?" he asked.

"Quite far enough to demonstrate that no enemy could have been seen from our works," was the response.

"Where is Major Molynoux?" asked the colonel. Then, without waiting for a reply, he turned and stalked off toward the major's quarters.

He found that officer engaged in a work that, considering the occasion, was trying to the colonel's temper. The keeper of the firing key was engaged in chasing a rat around the apartment, striking at him with his sword.

"Major!" thundered the colonel. "Colonel," responded the major, pausing from the chase.

"Who fired the guns?" "That rat. He jumped on the electric key."

The men were returned to their slumbers, and in another ten minutes the fort was again silent.

What passed further between the colonel and the major is not known. But certain it is that Major Molynoux was relieved from the charge of the firing room, and a rat trap was placed there near the key.

## Sidelights on the European War

Rome.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The panic which seized depositors in the postoffice banks in Italy at the outbreak of the European war is "plainly wearing off," according to the report of Signor Riccio, minister of posts and telegraphs. From July to December last there were withdrawals amounting to a net loss of 189,000,000 lire (approximately \$37,400,000), or a reduction of 8.3 per cent of the deposits of the first part of the year.

"The postoffice depositors, however," says Signor Riccio, "regained the confidence of the people by the system of paying on request, without having recourse to the moratorium. I have raised the interest on deposits from 2.50 to 2.88 per cent, which makes it higher than any banking concern. In time I intend to introduce the system of checks. In this way we hope to save our thrifty working classes from the clutches of dishonest private banks. Even with the storm of 1914 the total deposits in the postoffice banks represent more than one-third the sum deposited in all other Italian institutes of credit. An extension of the postoffice savings banks for the receipt of the savings of emigrants is contemplated."

From 1909 to 1913 the deposits in the postoffice banks rose from 1,582,000,000 lire to 2,091,000,000 lire, with an average addition of 127,000,000 lire every year. The high point in July, 1914, was 2,159,000,000 lire.

Paris.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Paul Descombes, discussing the progressive depopulation of France, gives some statistics to show that the thinning of the woods and forests is largely responsible. There are 31 French departments that are more or less mountainous. These now have 8,094,940 inhabitants. If the old rate of increase had been maintained their population now would be 11,896,366. Monsieur Descombes points out that the mountainous regions of Switzerland, which should not be any less favorable to repopulation than the mountainous regions of France, show an increase of more than 50 per cent in population during the last 60 years, and he attributes it to the fact that forest protection in Switzerland is far more rigorous than in France.

General Headquarters, British Army, France.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Barney Oldfield's old mechanic, Harry Breen, who has swept around the track with him on the Indianapolis speedway and elsewhere in the United States, is now driving a car for a British staff officer at the front. He says the excitement of being under shell fire has the automobile racing game beaten. Breen hails from Pittsburgh, Pa., where he was born 41 years ago of a Danish mother and British father. The

British father was the lever that got Breen into the British army. Leaving a prosperous garage business in Pittsburgh he hurried to England and enlisted. His qualities as expert mechanic and skilful, fearless driver insured instant service at general headquarters, where such men are at a premium. The superb country roads of France, which are kept in a remarkable state of fitness notwithstanding the war, gave Breen an opportunity for imagining he is still with Oldfield on the rack trying to break a record.

General Headquarters, British Army, France.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Contrary to popular belief the British soldier in the field is not receiving his ration or any other form of alcohol every day. Coincident with, but not necessarily associated with the temperance agitation in England, the rum ration is now served only twice a week. Warmer weather and the desire to cut down the use of stimulants is the explanation. So far as known there has been no protest from the troops. The two drinks a week amount to about half a gill each.

London.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—In order to relieve the hard-worked censor, soldiers writing home letters from the front are now being put on their honor as to the contents of their letters.

A special envelope has been issued to the troops in the fighting line for this purpose. It is green in color and headed "On Active Service." On the flap is this declaration, which must be signed by the writer: "I certify on my honor that the contents of this letter refer to nothing but private and family matters."

## May 5 in American History.

- 1789—Opening session of the "states general" at Versailles; beginning of the French revolution.
- 1821—Napoleon Bonaparte died a captive at St. Helena; born 1769.
- 1859—Prince Metternich, celebrated Austrian diplomat in the days of Napoleon's empire, died; born 1773.
- 1864—A day of battles. The Army of the Potomac opened the attack on Lee's forces in the Wilderness. The army under Sherman fought Johnston's at Rocky Face Ridge, Ga.; Sheridan's troopers encountered Stuart's Confederates at Craig's Church, Va.; the Confederate ironclad ram Albemarle was captured by Federal wooden ships in Roanoke river, and Porter's Red river squadron fought Confederates at Dunn's bayou, Louisiana.
- 1904—The Panama canal zone formally ceded to the United States.